THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Issues relating to European Consortium proposal of a soft loan

335. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded 'in principle' sanction to a European consortium proposal of a soft loan to meet revamping cost of Barauni, Durgapur and Namrup Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, whether the consortium has started preliminary work as offered by them;

(c) whether the consortium submitted DPR and have tenders been issued;

(d) if Government have not guaranteed the loan, what are the plans of Government to revamp the three units of H.F.C.L.; and

(e) whether any Central assistance has been given to any of the three units, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

(d) The revival package in respect of the Namrup Units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) has been approved by the Government on 1.10.97. The eventual decision in respect of the Barauni and Durgapur Units of HFC, which will be subject to the approval of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, would, inter-alia, take into account the considerations of unit-wise viability and tie-up of the funding arrangements.

(e) Within the constraints of budgetary resources Government has been funding the cash losses of HFC to enable it to meet its operational requirements and providing the funds for essential replacement/renewals. During the current financial year, a budgetary support of Rs. 184.34 crore has been earmarked for the company. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 104 crore has already been released.

Policy relating supporting Pharmaceutical Units

336. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any specific policy frame work to support over 8,000 pharmaceutical units in the country, as appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 24th October, 1997;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the investment limit for small scale sector as well as support them in acquiring latest technologies so as to fulfil their need for quality and price competitiveness in the context of globalisation; and

(c) whether Government have also consulted National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), experts from Pharmaceutical Industry and SSI's Units before finalsation of the above mentioned policy if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) There is no fresh proposal for any specific policy frame work to support pharmaceutical Units. The existing policy frame work is as given in the "Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994, which, *inter-alia* provides for almost complete delicensing of manufacturing activity under I(D&R) Act, and simplified pricing policy. Manufacturing units operating in Small Scale Sector are exempt from obtaining price approval for price-controlled formulations. However, they have to follow ceiling prices, if any, fixed by the Govt. The subject matter of fixing the ceiling for investment limit for Small Scale Units, including Pharmeeuti-

cal units, in the concern of Ministry of Industry and as per available information, a proposal to increase the investment limit for small scale sector is under consideration of the Government to meet the requirements of quality and technology amongst others, for small scale units.

Strike by the workers of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited

337. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a strike for 72 hours by the workmen of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF);

(b) if so, the issue leading to the strike;

(c) whether the unions have now informed about an indefinite strike, if the issues are not resolved;

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government to avert the strike;

(e) whether the workers of National Fertiolizers Limited also have given a notice of an indefinite strike from 27th November, 1997; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government so far to avert the strike?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The workers of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) went on 72 hours strike from 6.00 a.m. on 22nd October, 1997 to press their demand for payment of Bonus and incentive including ex gratia amount for the year 1996-97 over and above their entitlement as per the Government guidelines.

(c) and (d) The unions have not given any notice yet to go on indefinite strike. The management of RCF is making efforts to resolve the issue through dialogue with the representatives of the recognised union.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The recognised unions of various units of NFL including the Corporate Office have served notices for indefinite strike from 27.11.1997 to press decision on their charter of demands. The management had dialogue with the unions and this is still continuing at various levels. Simultaneously, conciliation proceedings have also been started by Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) at Chandigarh for the Panipat unit of NFL. Contingency plans are being made ready for running the plants in case no settlement is possible before 27.11.1997.

Revival proposal for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

338. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers have approved any revival proposal for Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL);

(b) if so, the salient features of the acheis viz. reliefs and concessions agreed by Government, State Governments, FIs/ Banks and sacrifices envisaged from the workers; and

(c) if not, the present status of revival scheme for IDPL and the likely timeframe anvisegee for finalisation of reveival scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) On the basis of the outlines of revival proposal submitted by IDPL management and the employees, a Group of Ministers (GOA) in a meeting held on 8.8.97 recommended revival of IDPL and decided that IDPL management should be directed to rework, in close coordinated on with the represantetives of the employees of the company, a rehabilitetion proposal on given parameters. Such a proposal, prepered by IDPL management in consultation with the representatives of the